

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (currently amended): A method to recover one or more fluorescent cells separate from any non-fluorescent cells from a tissue, which method comprises ~~microsurgically~~ mechanically separating one or more living cells that produce a fluorescent protein ~~from a location in the tissue~~ from any cells in the surrounding tissue that do not produce said first fluorescent protein using surgical procedures,

thereby recovering one or more living cells that produce said first fluorescent protein[[,]] separate from any cells that do not produce said first fluorescent protein.

2. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the cells that produce the first fluorescent protein are tumor cells.

3-4. (canceled)

5. (original): The method of claim 2, wherein the tumor cells are metastatic tumor cells of the lung, bone, lymph node or liver.

6. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the first fluorescent protein is a green fluorescent protein or a red fluorescent protein.

7. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said one or more living cells recovered consists of a single living cell.

8. (previously presented): The method of claim 2, wherein said cells that produce said first fluorescent protein are present in an immunocompromised laboratory animal.

9. (previously presented): The method of claim 8, which further comprises transferring cells that produce said first fluorescent protein to at least one additional immunocompromised animal.

10. (original): The method of claim 1, which further comprises subjecting the recovered one or more living cells that produce said first fluorescent protein to gene expression analysis.

11. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein said cells contained in the tissue that do not produce the first fluorescent protein produce a second fluorescent protein that emits a different wavelength from the first fluorescent protein.